

REMARKS

35 U.S.C. § 112

As claim 9 has been canceled, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102(a/e)

Claims 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a/e) as being anticipated by Byerley (US 6,457,505). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. Claim 5 has been amended to clarify that each bead lock is mounted on a axially movable housing threadedly connected to the central screw and axially movable in response to rotation of the central screw. Byerly teaches bead lock shoes that are not axially movable by rotation of the central screw, and instead, relies on bead lock piston and camming action of center support segments for movement. As Byerley fails to anticipate the invention as recited in claim 5, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Baldoni (US 6,360,802). Claim 5 has been amended to clarify that each bead lock is mounted on a axially movable housing threadedly connected to the central screw and axially movable in response to rotation of the central screw. The Baldoni reference teaches that compressed air is injected between 37 and 46, which results in moving piston 46 toward flange 18 which move pins 43 and sector 43a radially outward so that sectors 43a clamp ply against bead at support 64. (Col. 4, lines 48-60). As Baldoni fails to anticipate the invention as recited in claim 5, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

In light of this amendment, all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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